

IT WAS HIS NERVE

That Made it Possible for Lieutenant Braunerreuther to
CAPTURE LADRONE ISLANDS

WITHOUT THE LOSS OF A MAN
AND IN THE SPACE OF TIME COVERED
BY TWENTY-NINE MINUTES—UNAUTHORIZED OPENING
OF A LETTER AND A DISPLAY OF
FIRMNESS AND NERVE FIGURED
IN AN EXPLOIT THAT WILL LIVE.

Through the kindness of Hon. Augustus Pollock, the *Intelligencer* is permitted to reproduce this morning a letter received from Lieutenant William Braunerreuther, U. S. N., formerly instructor at the *Linsay*, and now executive officer on the cruiser *Charleston*, which sailed from San Francisco to reinforce Admiral Dewey in Manila Bay, and en route captured the principal city and capital of the Ladrone Islands. Beyond the fact that Lieutenant Braunerreuther was the officer detailed by Captain Glass to effect the capture, little has become known of the details of the exploit, and the graphic story told by the hero of the occasion in the following letter will be thoroughly enjoyed by the *Intelligencer's* readers, many of whom are personal friends of the lieutenant. The exhibition of cool American nerve on the part of the lieutenant, which made it possible to do the thing in just twenty-nine minutes and with the entire absence of bloodshed possibly finds no parallel in American history. The letter follows:

U. S. S. CHARLESTON,

At Sea and 1,000 Miles From Manila,
June 24, 1898.

My Dear Mr. Pollock:—Distance, you see, is unable to sever friendships such as ours. I have left Mare Island, leaving the navy yard for good, and the family for the time being in Vallejo, just across the river. They are to remain there until I can arrange to have them join me in Japan, or perhaps even in Manila. We have just carried out our orders to capture the Spanish authorities at the capital of the Ladrone Islands, Agaña. I was selected by the captain to undertake this job and given 160 men to land with, as a starter. I went ashore to have a talk with the governor about affairs and the results were that I did not lose even a single man. The matter was all settled in one day and we are carrying with us fifty-four soldiers (Spanish) and six officers, besides a lot of Mauser rifles and nearly 10,000 rounds of ammunition. I had the whole to handle and did it up quickly. The captain's instructions were to wait a half hour for his answer to ultimatum, then use my troops. I waited, and in just twenty-nine minutes the governor handed me his sealed reply, addressed to the captain of my ship out in the harbor about four or five miles off.

I knew this was sealed with the sole object of gaining time, and hence I broke the seal, read the contents, the governor protesting and saying that was a letter for my captain. I replied: "I represent him here. You are now my prisoners, senors, and will have to come on board ship with me." They protested and plead and finally the governor said:

"You came on shore to talk over matters and you make us prisoners instead." I replied: "I came on shore to hand you a letter and to get your reply; in this reply now in my hand you agree to surrender all under your jurisdiction. If this means anything at all, it means that you will accede to any demands I may deem proper to make. You will at once write an order to your military man at Agaña, the capital (this place was five miles distant), directing him to deliver at this place at 4 p. m. (it was then 10:30 a. m., June 21st), all arms and ammunition, and all Spanish flags on the island. Each soldier to bring his own rifle and ammunition, and all the soldiers, native and Spanish, with their officers, must witness this."

They protested and demurred, saying there was not time enough to do it, but I said: "Senors, it must be done." The letter was written, read by me and sent. I took all the officers on board with me in a boat, and at 4 p. m. went ashore again and rounded in the whole outfit. I was three miles away from my troops and had only four men with me. At 4 p. m., when I disarmed 108 men and two officers, I had forty-six men and three officers with me. The keynote to the whole business was my breaking the seal of that letter and acting at once. They had no time to delay or prepare any treacherous tricks, and I got the "drop" on the whole outfit as they say out west.

The native troops I released and allowed to return to their homes unrestricted; they had manifested great joy in being relieved from Spanish rule. It was harsh treatment to tear these Spanish officers from their families and homes and business affairs, and without any change of clothing, but it had to be done, and they were given a chance to write letters to their wives requesting that clothing be sent down to them to go on board at 4 p. m. While it was harsh, it was war, and in connection with the Spanish treachery it was all that could be done. Twenty-four hours would have—yes, I believe even four hours with a leader such as the governor was, a lieutenant colonel in the Spanish army—given them a chance to hide along the road to Agaña and at intervals in the dense tropical foliage they could have almost annihilated any force we could land. The approach to the landing over shallow coral reefs would have made a landing almost a terrible loss of life almost an impossibility—but "all is well that ends well."

We have increased by conquest, the population of the United States by nearly 12,000 people. The capital has a population of 6,000 people. This harbor in which we were is beautiful, easy of access, plenty of deep water, admitting of the presence of a large number of vessels at the same time, and is an ideal place for a coaling station. If our government decides to hold the Philippines, it would then come in so well; San Francisco to Honolulu, 2,100 miles; Honolulu to the Island of Guam, 3,300; and thence to Manila, 1,600 miles. With a chain of supply stations like this we could send troops the whole year round, if necessary, and any vessel with a steaming capacity of 3,500 miles, could reach a base of supplies.

We have three transports with us now and hope to reach Manila in less than six days. I have quite a number of letters to write and you can judge pretty well by this as to their length. The details I have scarcely touched upon, but had the officials and soldiers dreamed for one moment that they were to be torn from their homes there would, I feel sure, have been another story to tell, and I am firmly convinced this letter would never have been written.

The captain in extending to me his congratulations remarked: "Braunerreuther, you'll never as long as you live, have another experience such as this. I congratulate you on your work." All this whole affair was transacted in Spanish. I had an interpreter with me, but forgot all about using him. I did not want them to get a chance to think even, before it was too late, my dear old friend, and devote myself to other matters. You will no doubt get many, if

not all, of the details from the papers very shortly after you get this and hence you will really suffer no great loss at not getting them from me. So with kindest regards to all friends, remember me particularly to the members of your interesting family, and believe me as ever, your old friend, with best wishes,

"THE LIEUTENANT."

A QUIET SABBATH

At Camp Thomas—Improvement in the Sanitary Condition of the Camp. CHICKAMAUGA, CHATTANOOGA NATIONAL MILITARY PARK, GA., August 7.—Aside from some important plans which are being formulated at Camp Thomas with reference to the health and comfort of the troops this was a day of quiet and rest.

The signal corps, under command of Major Squire, has been delayed two or three days, responding to an order to proceed to Newport News, but will depart at 8 o'clock to-morrow morning. The improvement of the sanitary condition of the regimental camps is one absorbing matter at the park now. Definite plans will have been formulated within a day or two, after which time the management of the camp will be under new and very rigid regulations as regards the disposition of garbage and refuse matter and the preparation and serving of food. All drinking water will be boiled and this regulation is one which will not in the future be deviated from. Another condition which it is hoped to bring about as early as possible is that of having the tents of all the men provided with board floors.

With the still further purpose of adding to the health conditions, practice marches are being arranged for. On Thursday of this week the engineer officers of all the divisions will go out to locate the most practical routes for these marches and the regiments will be sent out later by brigades, in heavy marching order for a four days absence from the park. The march will cover about sixty miles going and coming and the men will occupy shelter tents at night.

Numerous furloughs are being granted convalescents in accordance with the recent order to allow patients recovering from serious illness a thirty days' furlough and transportation home.

Taken Home for Burial.

Special Dispatch to the *Intelligencer*. WASHINGTON, August 7.—Clinton G. Rapp's remains were taken yesterday to Buckhannon, W. Va., for burial, his death occurring Friday. Mr. Rapp had been for upwards of twenty years a clerk in the treasury department. He was one of the most genial of men, a citizen of probity and pleasing characteristics. His death is deeply deplored not only by his West Virginia associates in Washington, but by all with whom he came in contact, officially and socially.

The Only Yale Student.

Special Dispatch to the *Intelligencer*. WASHINGTON, August 7.—Lieutenant Stephen B. Eldins, Jr., of General Grant's staff, went Friday evening to Newport News, where he will embark on the U. S. S. *Yale* for Porto Rico. The lieutenant is the only student of Yale college to depart with the force aboard the *Yale*.

That Cerruti Claim.

COLON, Colombia, August 7, via GALVESTON, Texas, August 7.—It is understood in local circles that Congress is holding a secret session at Bogota discussing the matter of the settlement of the Cerruti claim. The dissatisfaction over the eventual forced settlement of the claim and the consequent drain upon Colombia's resources is beginning to create much bitter feeling throughout the country. Even the Italian colonies at Barranquilla and other ports are resenting the actions of the Italian government.

Can It Happen Again?

MADRID, August 7.—El *Epoca* states that the police are investigating anarchist plot against the life of a high political personage which was to have been carried out to-morrow upon the occasion of the anniversary of the assassination of Senor Canovas del Castillo.

THE RIVER.

YESTERDAY'S DEPARTURES. Pittsburgh...AVALLON, 9 a. m. Pittsburgh...KANAWHA, 11 a. m. Pittsburgh...KEYSTONE STATE, 8 a. m. Pittsburgh...VIRGINIA, 9 a. m. Sistersville...LEROY, 7 a. m. BOATS LEAVING TO-DAY. Parkersburg...AVALLON, 9 p. m. Sistersville...RUTH, 1:30 p. m. Arlington...LEROY, 3:30 p. m. Steubenville...T. M. BAYNE, 2:30 p. m. BOATS LEAVING TO-MORROW. Parkersburg...ARGAND, 11 a. m. Matamoros...ELOISE, 11 a. m. Sistersville...RUTH, 3:30 p. m. Clarington...LEROY, 3:30 p. m. Steubenville...T. M. BAYNE, 2:30 p. m.

TWO MILLION BUSHELS.

PITTSBURGH, August 7.—Two million bushels of coal were shipped to Louisville and Cincinnati to-day by river, making nearly 8,000,000 bushels in two days. This is the heaviest shipment in so short a time made from this port in years. The river is now falling and the barge stage is ended.

Along the Landing.

The marks at 6 p. m. Sunday—10 feet 10 inches and stationary. Weather Sunday—Clear and warm. The Pittsburgh coal fleet continued passing this port Sunday and Sunday night. Yesterday's tows were as follows: 10 a. m.—Dick Fulton. 2 p. m.—Ed. Roberts, Stella Moren, John Moren, James Moren. 3 p. m.—Tom Reese, B. D. Wood, Tornado Pacific. 4 p. m.—Robert Jenkins, Enterprise, Fred Wilson, Joseph B. Williams, Follie, J. C. Risher, Cruiser, Mariner. 6 p. m.—Smoky City, Charles Brown, Samuel Clark, Coal City, Harry P. Jones, Belief, Hornet No. 3, Volunteer.

River Telegrams.

PITTSBURGH—River 8 feet 4 inches and falling at the dam; clear and pleasant. OIL CITY—River 2 feet 2 inches and falling; clear and warm. MORGANTOWN—River 9 feet 6 inches and falling; cloudy and warm. GREENSBORO—River 9 feet and falling; cloudy and warm. Woodward and Nettie Hudson down Monday; Adam Jacob and George Biddle up. GREENVILLE—River 10 feet 3 inches and falling; Passed up—Virginia, Avalon, Kanawha. Passed down—Dick Fulton, James Moren, Stella Moren, Pacific, Sam Clark, Tom Reese No. 2, B. D. Wood, Tornado, George Shiras, Mariner, Follie, Joseph B. Williams, Robert Jenkins, Little Dick, Fred Wilson, Charles Brown, Belief, Smoky City, Coal City, Hornet No. 2, Ed Roberts, Harry P. Jones, Volunteer, Wilmot, and Sam Brown.

PARKERSBURG—Ohio river 8 feet 10 inches and rising; cloudy and warm; mercury 83. Passed down and up—Argand. Passed down—Will J. Cummins. The Little Kanawha is stationary.

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FAVORITE HYMNS

Of War and Peace, and their Power
of Inspiration

THEME OF A TIMELY SERMON

AT THE FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, SUNDAY EVENING, BY REV. C. M. OLIPHANT—"TENTING ON THE OLD CAMP GROUND," AND "BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC" AMONG THE SELECTIONS CALLED BY THE SPEAKER—HYMNS FOR SPIRITUAL WARFARE.

Last evening a timely sermon was delivered at the First Christian church by the pastor, Rev. C. M. Oliphant. "Songs of War and Peace" was the theme of his remarks, and apt quotations were made from the best known hymns, with reference to martial feelings. Rev. Mr. Oliphant said:

In all life's contests nothing is more helpful than music. It keeps our spirits alive. When in trouble and overwhelmed with difficulty, a song lifts us out and removes our fears. Many are the hymns of war and peace, occasioned by war and peace. These hymns indicate the spirit of the age in which they were written. Luther in 1529 wrote: "A mighty fortress is our God." It was sung in his time so often as to give it the name of Battle hymn of the Reformation.

The King of Sweden, Gustavus Adolphus, had this hymn sung in several battles. His soldiers sang it in the battle of Lutzen in 1632 in which battle King Gustavus lost his life. Isaac Watts in 1719 wrote a hymn for use in war, based on the 20th Psalm. The first couplet: "Now may the God of Power and Grace attend His people's humble cry." It has been often used and sung when people desired wars to cease and peace to reign from the rivers to the ends of the earth. For

"Through centuries of sin and woe Hath streamed the crimson flood."

War has been an unending antagonism between man and man; between tribes and nations.

Oliver Wendell Holmes was quick to respond to the sentiment of the time, when he wrote in 1861, the "Army Hymn":

"O Lord of hosts! Almighty King Behold the sacrifice we bring." These and many other hymns were all inspiration in war times and teach us the spirit that pervaded the hearts of the people in these times.

Music has helped the spirits of the people and soldiers. O. W. Holmes also wrote one that was helpful in this way. It is a prayer for the protection of soldiers. Its first line:

"Father of all mercies; Heavenly Friend."

Then the last stanza is:

"Let each unhallowed cause that brings The stern destroyer cease, Thy flaming angel fold his wings, And seraph whisper peace."

Band music has been inspiring. In the Battle of Waterloo Wellington at a critical moment found the Forty-second Highlanders wavering and that the reason alone lay in the fact that the band had ceased to play. He instantly ordered that the pipes be played in full force. The effect was magical. They rallied and went forth strengthened to win the hard-earned contest.

An army chaplain after the late war expressed the opinion that the war songs and Christian hymns did more to maintain the spirits of the people and soldiers until a decisive conclusion was reached than any other single cause. Said he: "Eloquence and money did their part, but music more." The "Battle Hymn of the Republic," by Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, was written because the authoress had a vision of war and of the God of war, of human slavery and freedom, of soldierly courage, suffering and endurance. "Tenting on the Old Camp Ground" was written in a few minutes, in 1862, by Walter Kittredge, while preparing to go to battle. At first it was not popular but afterwards became immensely popular. It runs like this:

"We are tenting on the old camp ground, Our weary hearts, a song of home, And friends we love so dear."

Chorus runs:

"Many are the hearts that are weary to-night, Wishing for wars to cease, Many are the hearts looking for the right To see the dawn of peace."

Tenting to-night, tenting to-night on the old camp ground."

There is one hymn written in 1832, by S. F. Smith, a theological student at Andover, which remains unsurpassed. It has a history of sixty-six years and until another poetic seer is sent from above, it will hold undisputed first rank as the greatest national hymn for all national occasions, secular and sacred. It is "America."

"My country, 'tis of thee, Sweet land of liberty: Of thee I sing:

Land where my fathers died, Land of the pilgrim's pride, From every mountain side Let freedom ring."

All these and other hymns like it, should ever live and will ever live, in the hearts of all true patriots.

The spiritual warfare has brought forth hymns that have inspired the Christian soldier. These hymns should be sung frequently in our church. They are peculiarly helpful.

Isaac Watts wrote:

"I am a soldier of the cross, And I'm not ashamed to own my Lord."

A Charles Wesley wrote:

"A charge to keep I have,"

Duffield wrote:

"Stand up, stand up for Jesus,"

Sabine Baring Gould wrote:

"Onward, Christian soldiers,"

These soldier songs are among the most popular, and inspire Christian hearts to loftier things. The hymns of war and peace of Christ and the church marching on in her victories of the battles of Christian hearts may well be revived, for they will do all great good. They unify patriots and Christians. They are also the hymns of eternal life, expressive of our love and God and our fellows. They are vehicles of praise and glory; of praise to our Maker and Redeemer, and of that glory which lies beyond death and the grave, in which state we shall forever sing the songs that are better than earth's, even the heavenly.

REV. JOHN L. ROEMER.

A Former Wheeling Man, Preaches at the First Presbyterian Church.

Rev. John L. Roemer, an old Wheeling boy, now pastor of the South Presbyterian church, Cleveland, conducted the services at the First Presbyterian church yesterday morning. Rev. Mr. Roemer, with his wife, is spending the summer at Morgantown, where he returns to-day, Sunday, August 21, he will preach at the Vance Memorial church.

Yesterday morning the theme of his sermon was "The Possibilities and Responsibilities of Life," the text being taken from Matthew 25:29: "For unto everyone that hath shall be given."

Rev. Mr. Roemer said that this text was

the expression of a natural and universal law, which found illustration in the financial world, the realm of culture, the history of nations, etc. He spoke of the possibilities of life and people of small ability fail to realize their possessions. As an instance of the use of small endowments, Rev. Mr. Roemer instanced the parable of the talents. The responsibilities of life, he said, are proportioned to the possibilities. It is in the power of all men, he said, to work out the great prefaces of life.

OCEAN MYSTERY.

It is Believed that Some Ship Sank in Straits of Belle Isle.

ST. JOHNS, N. F., August 7.—Captain Major, of the mail steamer Virginia Lake, from Labrador, which arrived to-day expresses the belief that some ship certainly has been sunk in the straits of Belle Isle. Reports to that effect, he says, are current along the whole northern coast of the Island, beside which a quantity of deals, cheese boxes and other wreckage have drifted ashore at Flowers Cove near the scene of the reported disaster.

Captain Major is surprised that more wrecks are not reported, because the fog in that region has been the heaviest known in thirty years, continuing fourteen days, during which time not a sight of the sun has been obtained. On Saturday, July 30, a large Allan line steamer with five hundred passengers aboard, was almost ashore at Belle Harbor and on Tuesday last two other liners were in great danger of Chateau.

The steamer Ipsden is a total wreck at Point Amour, owing to the same cause.

Captain Major expects further news regarding the reported disaster when the steamer Leopard, from North Labrador, due on Tuesday, shall arrive.

Turkey Repudiates Responsibility.

CONSTANTINOPLE, August 7.—The Porte, on Friday, replied to the American demand for compensation for losses sustained by American subjects during the Armenian massacres.

The reply is the same as that given to other powers, repudiating all responsibility for the losses.

In the course of the farewell audience of Dr. James B. Angell, the retiring American minister to Turkey, the Sultan referred to the war between the United States and Spain. He said he was much impressed with the naval operations and the terrible execution of American guns and had ordered the purchase of similar guns for Turkey.

War Pictures

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photographer and artist the deeds of valor of
our Army and Navy

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